

## **Evaluating the Health SmartLibrary**

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### **Abstract**

The Health SmartLibrary (HSL), supported by the National Library of Medicine (Information Systems grant # 1 G08 LM07051-01A1), is a web-based system designed to target resources relevant to the users' information needs. Faculty and librarians collaborated to build tools that would make access to information resources easy and efficient. These tools include current awareness; a metasearch engine; a file cabinet; personalization features; and discipline-based resource collections.

### **The Problem**

The information world has seen an explosion in electronic information resources, resulting in sophisticated electronic libraries providing a vast amount of information at the user's fingertips. For today's busy health care professional, there is no time to sort through all of the databases, journals and other electronic resources available on their desktop to identify the most useful information needed for quality patient care, education, or research.

### **Purpose of the Project**

The goal of this project is to develop a 'smarter' library that will assist the busy health care professionals with selecting and managing electronic information in a way that is useful for them in making clinical decisions. This poster concentrates on efforts to bring the HSL to the user, by presenting the initial users' evaluation of the HSL features, and feedback from library partners who reviewed, tested and implemented the HSL in their own, local environment. Implementation began with a few departments and centers in order to test the generic, discipline-based HSL. The HSL was then opened to other Northwestern users. Preliminary results of their evaluations will be presented. A list of partners will be shown along with their comments and suggestions about how best to improve the HSL features.